WINICK • CHURCHILL • RAPMUND
ACTION
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No. 826
JUNE 05
DC
DIRECT SALES
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$2.50 US $3.50 CAN

"I THOUGHT IT WAS IN KAHNDAQ?"
"IT WAS. BY THE TIME BRUCE GORDON ARRIVED, IT WAS GONE.
"HE FOLLOWED IT TO ROME. THEN IT WAS IN GREECE."
"YOU SAID SOMETHING ABOUT SOUTH AMERICA..."
"YES. THAT IS WHERE HE IS NOW."
"RIGHT NOW?"
"YES. HE ARRIVED ELEVEN HOURS AGO."
"ALL RIGHT, SO IT'S IN SOUTH AMERICA..."

"NO. I SAID BRUCE GORDON WAS IN SOUTH AMERICA.
"HE HAS, AGAIN, ARRIVED TOO LATE."
"SIR... PLEASE. JUST TELL ME. WILL HE FIND IT? ARE YOU ASKING ME TO GO LOOK FOR IT MYSELF...?"
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO DO ANYTHING OF THE KIND...
THEN WHY--?
WHY ARE YOU HERE? I FELT YOU SHOULD BE... MADE AWARE... OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS. AFTER ALL....
THE WIZARD SHAZAM.

LIGHTNING
STRIKES TWICE
...YOU ARE MY CHAMPION, CAPTAIN MARVEL. I WOULD NOT WITHHOLD ANY INFORMATION I DEEMED OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
SIR... PLEASE... WHAT'S HAPPENING?
JUDD WINICK writer
IAN CHURCHILL pencils
NORM RAPMUND inks
BETH SOTELO colors
RICHARD STARKINGS letters
TOM PALMER jr assoc. editor
EDDIE BERGANZA editor
superman created by jerry siegel & joe shuster

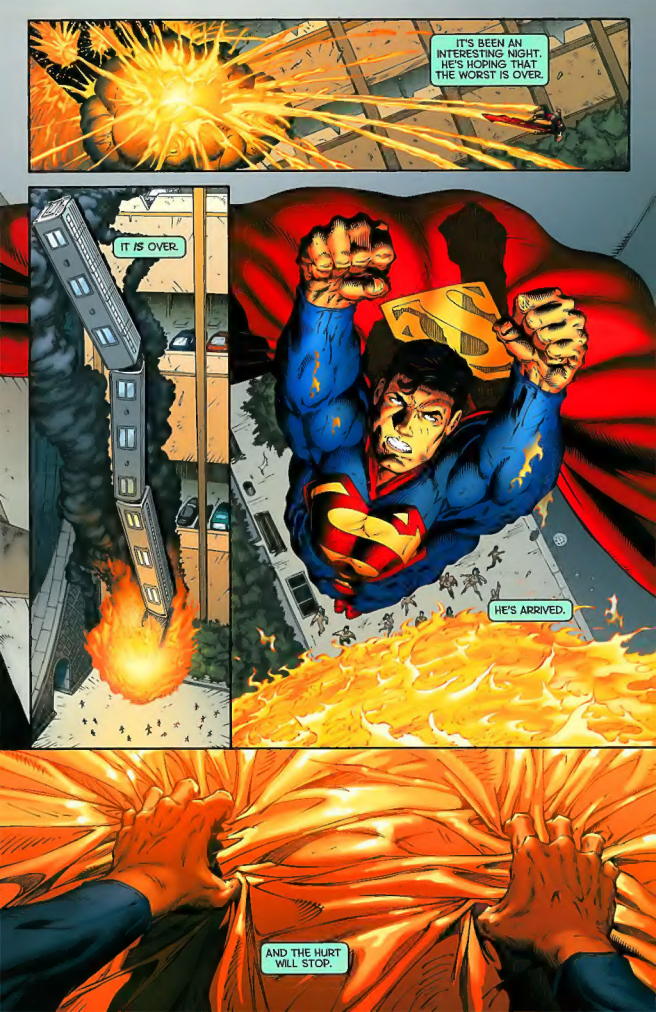
A GREAT DEAL, I'M AFRAID.
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO?
NOTHING.
SIR...? THERE MUST BE SOMETHING I CAN--
BUT YOU MUST REALIZE, MY CAPTAIN... FATE KNOWS NO BARGAINING TABLE. NO MERCY. NO QUARTER.
THE PAST HAS COME BACK TO HAUNT US AGAIN. BUT UNLIKE BEFORE... THAT WAS THE BEGINNING...
NOW... WE ARE REACHING THE END.

KENNY RIP IS ANGRY.
BUT NOT HOW YOU THINK. IT'S NOT ABOUT HIS ANGST. OR THE SUPPOSED RAGE THAT FUELS HIS "MUSIC."
KENNY MADE SOME QUESTIONABLE REMARKS ABOUT LATINOS AND HE WAS BUMPED FROM A LIVE TV SHOW. ONE THAT ALWAYS BOOSTS RECORD SALES.
SEVERAL GROUPS ARE ORGANIZING BOYCOTTS AND PROTESTS.
AND IN A MAGAZINE INTERVIEW AN ACTRESS HE'D BEEN DATING QUESTIONED HIS SEXUAL PREFERENCE.
AND NOW, HE'S EXPECTED TO JUMP AROUND LIKE A MONKEY FOR THESE IDIOTS.
"NO," KENNY THINKS. "YOU LOSERS WANT A SHOW?
"YOU GOT A SHOW."
HIS LAST THOUGHTS VACILLATE FROM RAGE TO PURE BEWILDERED CONFUSION.

DAVID TELLIS IS ANGRY.
HE PAID A SCALPER FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR FIFTH ROW TICKETS. AND BLEW TWO HUNDRED ON DINNER...
AND THIS NO-TALENT MILLIONAIRE WANNABE KILLS HIMSELF ON STAGE.
THE 22-YEAR-OLD ASPIRING MODEL HE TOOK TO THE SHOW WAS "SO UPSET" THAT SHE JUST WANTED TO GO HOME.
DID THAT ANOREXIC BRAIN DONOR THINK HE TOOK HER OUT BECAUSE SHE WAS A GIFTED CONVERSATIONALIST?
WITCH. FREEZING COLD WITCH.
TOO COLD.
DAVID'S LAST THOUGHT IS TERROR AS HIS ANGER SLIDES AWAY TO PAIN.
MALCOLM DIAMOND IS ANGRY.

HE HATES HIS JOB. HE HATES HIS EX-WIFE. HE *HATES* THIS *DAMNED* CITY.
ALL HAIL METROPOLIS. THIS GLITTERING, MAJESTIC KINGDOM OF THE RICH, THE SPOILED, THE BEAUTIFUL, THE *UNDESERVING*.
METROPOLIS CAN GO TO HELL.
MALCOLM'S LAST THOUGHT IS HATE. IT HAPPENS SO QUICKLY, THE FEELING NEVER LEAVES HIM BEFORE IT ENDS.
THE LATE NIGHT COMMUTERS ON THE SUBWAY PLATFORM EXPERIENCE FEAR.
EXCEPT ONE. HE WAS TEN BLOCKS AWAY WHEN HE HEARD THE FIRST CRACK OF THE DYNAMITE'S BLAST.

HE "CAME AS SOON AS HE COULD."
STAY CALM. YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT.


IT'S BEEN AN INTERESTING NIGHT. HE'S HOPING THAT THE WORST IS OVER.
IT *IS* OVER.
HE'S ARRIVED.
AND THE HURT WILL STOP.

IT'S WHAT HE DOES.
DO YOU HAVE AN I.D. ON THE BOMBER, COMMISSIONER HENDERSON?
PROBABLY. WE THINK WE'VE GOT HIS WALLET

A FEW OF THE EYEWITNESSES SAY THE DRIVER'S LICENSE LOOKS LIKE THE GUY.
BUT IT'S NOT MUCH HELP. MALCOLM DIAMOND, CONSTRUCTION WORKER. HE HAD A D.U.I. FIFTEEN YEARS AGO...
DOESN'T MAKE MUCH SENSE.
TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, I'LL BE RELIEVED IF THIS IS JUST SOME WHACK-JOB FINALLY GOING OFF HIS NUT.
I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE DISAPPOINTED.
I KNOW, BUT I'M WORKING ON A ROSIER OUTLOOK IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES.
SUPERMAN!
SUPERMAN, PLEASE, I HAVE TO TALK TO YOU! PLEASE!!
I WAS DOWN THERE IN--IN--IN THE EXPLOSION!
TAKE IT EASY, LADY.
IT'S OKAY, IT'S OKAY. DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT?
I DO! I DO. I-I-I-I...
NO. THE RAGE IS SUBSIDING. THIS IS FEAR.
I WAS THERE! I WAS IN THERE...
I UNDERSTAND THAT. YOU WERE DOWN ON THE PLATFORM WHEN IT EXPLODED. DID YOU SEE SOMETHING?

WITHOUT RAGE, THERE IS NO ENTRANCE. THERE IS NO STRENGTH. HE'S SO CLOSE. I NEED THE RAGE. SHE'S SLIPPING.
YES, BUT--I-I... IT WAS SO.. SO...
IT'S ALMOST DAWN. I AM LOSING THE GRIP
I'M SORRY, MISS. DO I KNOW YOU?
YOU WORK AT S.T.A.R. LABS WITH DR. MOHLMAN, RIGHT? WE'VE MET BEFORE. DR. TRACEY?
HE'S SO CLOSE. SO CLOSE...
YES... YES. I'M DR. JEANINE TRACEY.. I.. I WORK AT... YES...
YOU'VE HAD A TERRIBLE SCARE, BUT YOU'RE OKAY NOW. THIS GENTLEMAN IS GOING TO TAKE A LOOK AT YOU, OKAY?
YES. YES. I'LL... I'LL BE OKAY...
NOT NOW. I WAIT WAIT FOR THE DARK.

THIS VESSEL IS SO FRAGILE. HE'S TOO STRONG. SO CLOSE.
THE DARK WILL COME I WILL BE STRONGER.

DAILY PLANET
NO, I DON'T CARE IF WE HAVE A PHOTOGRAPHER. NO. WE DON'T NEED PICS ON THIS!
I'M NOT-- LOOK. SHE SAID NO PHOTOGRAPHERS AND I--
FINE! TAKE IT UP WITH PERRY. THIS IS ALL HIS CALL.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO? PERRY LANDED A PRINT EXCLUSIVE WITH LISA DENBY. SHE'S AGREEING TO DISCUSS HER "RELATIONSHIP" WITH KENNY RIP AND HOW SHE'S GOING TO DEAL WITH HIS DEATH.
I HEARD.
WASN'T IT, LIKE, TEN MINUTES AGO THAT SHE WAS TRASHING HIM IN FEAST MAGAZINE? NOW SHE'S THE WEEPING WIDOW.

I HEARD WE ONLY GOT THE EXCLUSIVE IF YOU'D DO THE INTERVIEW.

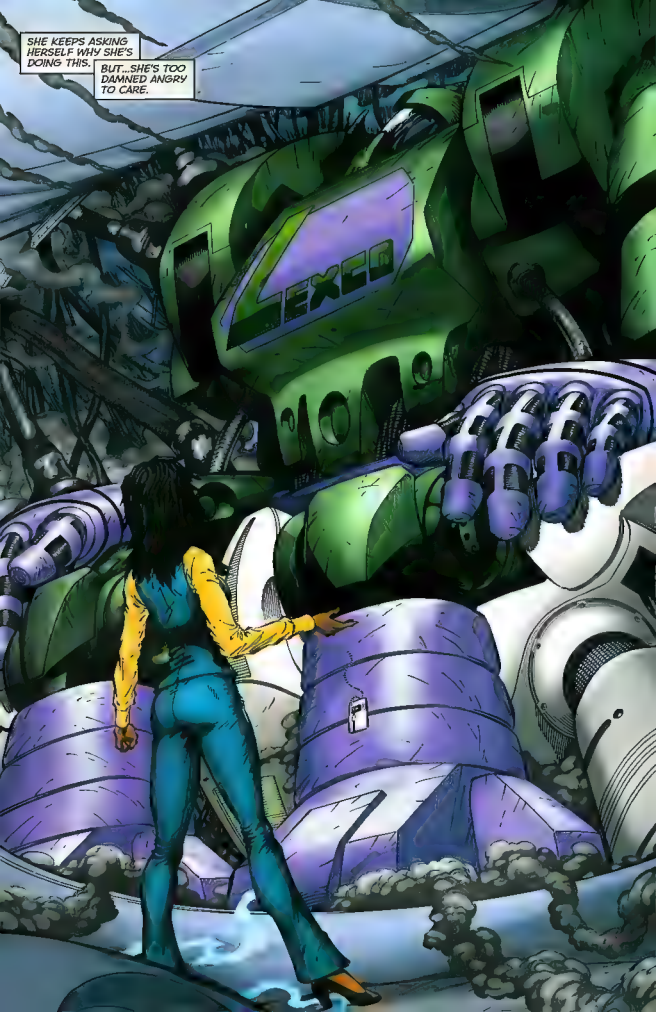
YEAH, WELL, SUE ME FOR HAVING A PROFILE. I CAN'T WAIT FOR THIS TO DROP OFF THE NEWSCYCLE.
NO OFFENSE, BUT MR. RIP WASN'T EXACTLY THE VOICE OF HIS GENERATION

HE KILLED HIMSELF IN FRONT OF *THIRTY THOUSAND* PEOPLE.
YES. IT'S ONE FOR THE BOOKS.

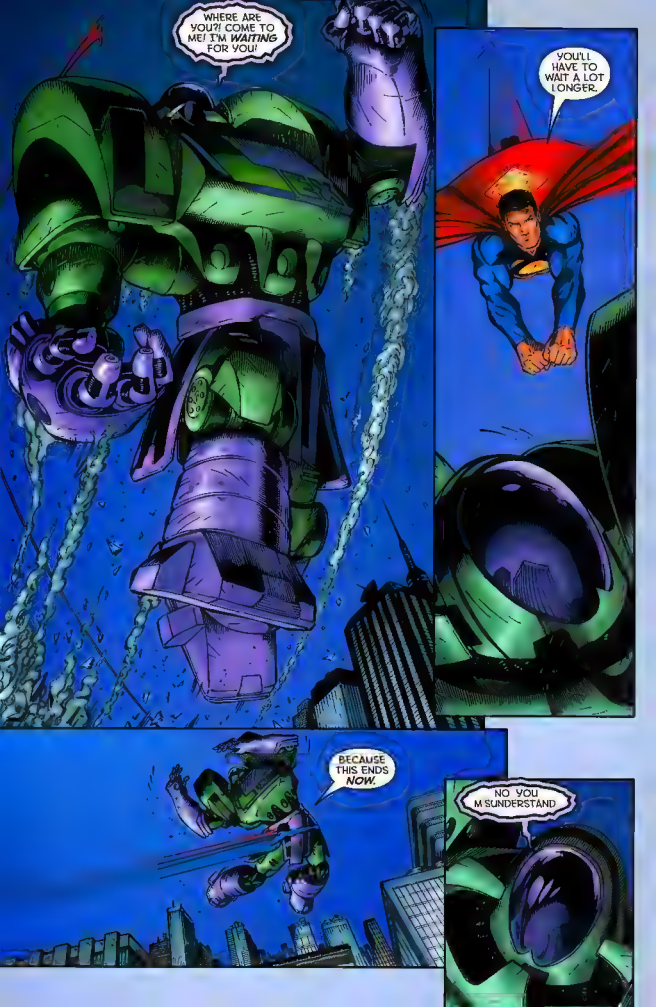
WHY ARE YOU HERE AT THE PLANET? GOT TIRED OF RIDING A DESK OUT OF THE OFFICE?
I'M JUST DOING A LITTLE RESEARCH. THERE WERE TWO OTHER SUICIDES LAST NIGHT. THE SUBWAY BOMBING AND A MAN SET HIMSELF ON FIRE AT A BAR.

THE BAR THING WAS AN ACCIDENT, WASN'T IT?
NO, I'VE BEEN READING THE ACCOUNTS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE AT THE SCENE. IT DOESN'T SOUND ACCIDENTAL.
I'M LOOKING FOR ANY OTHER INCIDENTS AROUND THE CITY. I'VE JUST... I'VE JUST GOT A BAD FEELING.
UH OH.
WHAT?
WHEN YOU GET A BAD FEELING, I THINK THE POPULACE SHOULD STOCK UP ON BOTTLED WATER AND CANNED GOODS.
JUST A FEELING IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING.

S.T.A.R. LABS.
6:47 P.M.
DR. JEANINE TRACEY HAS HAD A BAD DAY. SHE'S BEEN ARGUING WITH HER BOYFRIEND.
SECURITY
DENNIS KAPRI WAS JUST EXPLAINING TO HER FOR THE THIRD TIME TODAY THAT HIS DIVORCE WILL BE FINAL IN TWO WEEKS.
JEANINE STRUCK HIM WITH A STONE PAPERWEIGHT THAT SAT ON HER DESK.
SHE HASN'T HIT ANYONE SINCE SHE WAS TWELVE.
AND SHE'S NOT A THIEF
TODAY IS FULL OF SURPRISES.
S.T.A.R. LABS
DENNIS KAPRI
SECURITY


SHE KEEPS ASKING HERSELF WHY SHE'S DOING THIS.
BUT...SHE'S TOO DAMNED ANGRY TO CARE.
LEXCO

S.T.A.R. LABS
SUNDOWN.
BOOM
I MEAN IT. SHE TURNED OUT TO BE...SWEET. I THINK ALL THAT TALK TO FEAST WAS JUST
SMOKE
SHE REALLY SEEMS TO LOVE THE GUY BUT--
CA
COOOM


WHERE ARE YOU?! COME TO ME! I'M WAITING FOR YOU!
YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT A LOT LONGER.
BECAUSE THIS ENDS NOW.
NO. YOU M'SUNDERSTAND

I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU.
KZAAAACK
CRASH
YOU FELT THAT, DIDN'T YOU, BIG BOY?!

THAT WAS A RED SOLAR BLAST! THAT'S THE PRIMARY WEAPON OF THIS BATTLE SUIT.
AND I BET YOU FELT A LITTLE *TWINGE* WHEN YOU GRABBED HOLD OF ME, CORRECT?
THE CASINGS OF THE ENTIRE SUIT ARE COMPOSED OF A KRYPTONITE ALLOY. NOT ENOUGH TO *HURT* YOU, BUT ENOUGH THAT YOU CAN'T HURT *ME*.
LUTHOR?
NO, BUT THAT'S A VERY GOOD GUESS. THIS BEING A LEXCORP CREATION. IT WAS RETRIEVED FROM SPACE BY *S.T.A.R. LABS*.
THAT'S WHERE THIS BODY WAS ABLE TO PICK IT UP.

ECLIPSO LIVES AGAIN!
AND THIS BODY WILL ONLY LAST SO LONG. SO I WAS HOPING TO TAKE YOURS.
To Be Contined in
ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN 639!

TROY AGAIN!

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This Month's Cover by...
IAN CHURCHILL & NORM RAPMUND
COLOR BY DAVE STEWART

"[Donna's story] is the triumph of the human spirit."
– Editor JOAN HILTY

DC SPECIAL: THE RETURN OF DONNA TROY (June 2005): Fans have mourned her death for more than two years, but Donna Troy finally returns to the DC Universe this summer in a four-issue miniseries of mythic proportions! Written by the OTHER-WORLD-ly talented **Phil Jimenez** and uniting artistic Titans **José-Luis García López** (ON THE ROAD TO PERDITION) and **George Pérez** (JLA/AVENGERS) for the first time, this epic adventure heralds the rebirth of one of DC's most popular heroes…provided the combined efforts of the Teen Titans and Outsiders can convince her to accept her true destiny! And if that's not enough, this miniseries is but a prelude to even bigger things to this fall's Mega-Event INFINITE CRISIS!

Next Week in...

Adventures of Superman #639
Lightning Strikes Part 2 of 3! Superman confronts the evil force that has plagued Metropolis. What will Superman do when someone close to him is turned against him? By Winick, Churchill and Rapmund.

The Hot List THIS WEEK

ACTION COMICS #826
The spectacular story that brings together the Man of Steel and Captain Marvel begins here and spans the Super-titles this month, all written by Judd Winick (BATMAN) with art by Ian Churchill (SUPERMAN/BATMAN) and Norm Rapmund!

LEX LUTHOR: MAN OF STEEL #2 (OF 5)
The miniseries teaming writer Brian Azzarello with artist Lee Bermejo continues! Lex doesn't like problems, but he loves to solve them. And it's his top-secret solution to ridding Metropolis of his biggest problem — Superman — that may see Luthor triumph once and for all!

SEVEN SOLDIERS: ZATANNA #1 (OF 4)
The mind-bending SEVEN SOLDIERS continues with a miniseries by Grant Morrison and artists Ryan Sook and Mick Gray! With her powers waning, the sorceress Zatanna tries to find her father's lost journals, hoping they contain the secrets she needs.

SHEDDING LIGHT ON DARK DETECTIVE
Reunions are all the rage – especially when comic-book greats like **Steve Englehart**, **Marshall Rogers**, and **Terry Austin** get back together. Remembered for what many consider the definitive Batman run on **DETECTIVE COMICS** in the late 1970s, the trio reunites for the biweekly **BATMAN: DARK DETECTIVE**. Unfortunately, this six-issue miniseries won't be a happy gathering for Batman, who must contend with the Joker's killer campaign for the governor's chair, encounter the likes of Two-Face and the Scarecrow, and cross paths with that special someone from Bruce Wayne's past, Silver St. Cloud! The sparks fly – and probably explode – next month!

UNHAPPY ANNIVERSARY
Can you believe it's been two years since GRADUATION DAY, and the launch of **TEEN TITANS** and **OUTSIDERS?!** If not, then "The Insiders" – a four-part **TEEN TITANS/OUTSIDERS** crossover running in May and June – plus a horde of reactivated Superman robots will provide a less-than-gentle reminder! **Geoff Johns** and guest artists **Matthew Clark** and **Art Thibert** start off the arc when Superboy succumbs to the dark side of his genetic heritage in **TEEN TITANS #24**, while **Judd Winick** and **Carlos D'Anda** uncover some serious turmoil within the ranks in **OUTSIDERS #24**. Let's hope that when the dust settles in **TEEN TITANS #25** and **OUTSIDERS #25**, both teams will be able to celebrate their third year!

PUTTING THE "NEW" IN "NUCLEAR"
We could hardly contain ourselves when we heard that acclaimed *Para* scribe (and one-time VERTIGO editor) **Stuart Moore** is taking over the writing duties on **FIRESTORM**, starting with issue #14 in June. **Stuart**, along with artists **Jamal Igle** and **Rob Stull**, has plans that we think will make the Nuclear Man blow up – literally – in 2005! Expect a deep exploration of the physics fueling Firestorm's powers, personal implosions as Jason Rusch tries adjusting to his new life, plus new villains and other dark matters that will have you looking to the stars – which is exactly where our hero is headed!

ALL IN COLOR FOR NO DIMES
Put this on your calendar – May 7 is Free Comic Book Day, and DC is marking the occasion with a new printing of **THE BATMAN STRIKES #1**! It's a great chance to get a free copy of the comic based on the hit Kids WB! animated series for you, a relative, or even comics-curious friends! To find a comic store near you, dial the Comic Shop Locator Service number – 1-888-COMIC BOOK – go to or check out the official website at www.freecomicbookday.com.

-your MOJE at 1700

DC COMICS DAN DIDIO VP-Executive Editor PAUL LEVITZ President & Publisher GEORG BREWER VP-Design & Brand Product Development RICHARD BRUNING Senior VP-Creative Director PATRICK CALDON Senior VP-Finance & Operations CHRIS CARAMALIS VP-Finance TERRI CUNNINGHAM VP-Managing Editor STEPHANIE FIERMAN Senior VP-Sales & Marketing ALISON GILL VP-Manufacturing RICH JOHNSON VP-Book Trade Sales HANK KANALZ VP-General Manager, WildStorm LILLIAN LASERSON Senior VP & General Counsel JIM LEE Editorial Director-WildStorm PAULA LOWITT Senior VP-Business & Legal Affairs DAVID MCKILLIPS VP-Advertising & Custom Publishing JOHN NEE VP-Business Development GREGORY NOVECK Senior VP-Creative Affairs CHERYL RUBIN Senior VP-Brand Management BOB WAYNE VP-Sales

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CAPTAIN MARVEL

THE WORLD'S MIGHTIEST SCANNING!